

CITY OF MUSKEGON
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

January 10, 2012

Chairperson J. Hilt called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and roll was taken.

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Hilt, L. Spataro, S. Kroes, S. Radtke, L. Wood

MEMBERS ABSENT: D. Mayville, excused; K. Panozzo

STAFF PRESENT: M. Franzak, D. Renkenberger

OTHERS PRESENT: B. Chapla & H. Sytsema, Community Foundation; D. Cook, Schultz Landscaping; B. Young, City Parks Maintenance Supervisor; R. Hilt, 1627 Jefferson St.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 6, 2011 was made by L. Spataro, supported by S. Kroes and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Case 2012-01 – Hackley Park. Applicant: Community Foundation for Muskegon County. District: National Register. Current Function: Park. The Community Foundation for Muskegon County has received a large donation from Norma Horan that she would like to be used for landscaping enhancements and maintenance at Hackley Park. Plans and drawings were provided to board members.

B. Chapla provided background information on the donation and donor. They wanted to get started on the work in the spring. He stated that the donation would cover the new plantings plus future maintenance. D. Cook stated that the donor wanted to add color to the park using flowers and other landscaping. He had reviewed the Hackley Park plan but found no landscaping plan. However, he saw no prohibition against it. They were proposing to trim some tree branches in order to get more sun to the grass, and the removal of one large tree. He stated that Schultz Landscaping would involve City staff in the landscape planning and work. J. Hilt was concerned about the removal of tree limbs and the tree, stating that the park currently provides a nice shady location for park users. R. Hilt had an office across from the park and stated that he was opposed to removal of the large tree. D. Cook stated that there was a large hole in the tree which would eventually kill it. Board members, City staff, and the applicants discussed the preliminary plans that were presented. L. Spataro stated that he would like to see more specific information on what would be removed, what would be added, and what type of materials would be used. He also asked if there were plans for the area between the fence and the statue in the middle of the park. He stated that any work to be done should be coordinated with current park users, such as Parties in the Park and Art in the Park, to ensure that there is no conflict with those long-time events. R. Hilt was concerned about maintenance of the grass and other landscaping additions. D. Cook stated that funds would be available for future maintenance of the park landscaping, including grass. L. Spataro stated that

maintenance concerns were more of an issue for the City's Parks Department, and that the HDC should focus on the design, layout, and long-term plan. B. Chapla asked if the board was happy with the plan proposed so far. Board members concurred that they were, but that they would like more detailed information. B. Chapla and D. Cook stated that they would provide a more detailed plan at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None

OTHER

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.